



Daily Reflections

December 31, 2018

Scripture

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light,

but came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,

and the world came to be through him,

but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,

but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to those who believe in his name,

who were born not by natural generation

nor by human choice nor by a man's decision

but of God.

And the Word became flesh

and made his dwelling among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son,

full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying,

"This was he of whom I said,

'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me

because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received,

grace in place of grace,

because while the law was given through Moses,

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side,

has revealed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

As we continue to celebrate the season of Christmas, our Gospel text from St. John gives us a most profound statement about the meaning of Christmas. God almighty truly became a man, one like us in all things but sin. Jesus came as man to show us how to live our lives in a way that is totally pleasing to God. What a challenge for us as we prepare to enter 2019: To live like Jesus. May the new year be filled with Grace so that you may do so with faith, trust and love.

Food for your Journey

"When Michelangelo was a little boy, one of his friends gave him a small Greek sculpture of a human form, half chiseled from the marble. For the rest of his life, Michelangelo kept that little statue by his bed. It was the last thing he saw before he went to sleep, the first thing he saw when he awoke. For him it became a symbol of man's anguished effort to be liberated from the prison of his own ignorance. Michelangelo devoted his whole life to freeing figures from stone. Sometimes it would take him months, even years. Always he began with a vision of the man or the woman locked up in the stone. He said, 'It is my job, my task, to set that man, that woman, free.' Such was the inspiration of the great man - and, indeed, such was the inspiration of the great movement, of which he was an exemplar - the Renaissance, as we call it today."

--George Ross,

"Let Us Live Before We Die,"

Akron, Ohio.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I prepare to enter a new year, I find myself feeling a bit tentative and uncertain. What does the new year hold for me? What will my health be? Will my finances hold up? Will members of my family be well and with me this time next year? Please Lord, do not let these questions become anxieties. Instead, give me all the Grace I need to trust You in all things. May I never forget that You are in control. The whole wide world is in Your hands.
Amen